

# Visions of Hope

June 26, 2016



F4356 State Hwy 97  
Edgar, WI 54426

## Mission Statement:

Hope's Mission is to teach the bible and follow Christ's example by giving back to the community and those in need

## Website:

hope4centralwi.com

## Email:

hope4centralwi@yahoo.com

Sunday School  
8:45-9:30 am

Bible Study  
8:45-9:15 am

Sunday Worship  
9:30 am

Communion  
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

## Pastor:

David Lathrop  
715-574-1419 (cell)  
715-352-2555 (church)

## Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

## Duties List

July 3  
July 10

## Ushers

Rick Bradley  
Leroy Syring  
John Hamann  
Keith Bauman

## Greeters

Ken & Rose Schilling  
Scott Bauman

## Readers

Ron Kunkel  
Michelle Bauman

1Peter 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth."<sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted himself to Him who judges justly.<sup>24</sup> He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.<sup>25</sup> For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. These are some powerful statements. "Christ suffered for you." "He Himself bore our sins in His body, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness." "By His wounds you have been healed."

Now think of our sins and our society asking us to accept things which attempt to lure us away from our Savior and His pathway. Are we guilty of not standing up in the defense of marriage act? Did we do enough praying or giving money to those out there fighting for marriage to be defined as between one man and one woman? With the Supreme courts new decision same sex couples have all the rights and privileges that traditional marriages have. So where does that stop? The government now allows same sex marriages in every State in the Union. Do we recognize marriage between more than just two people? How about marriage to underage children, after all some claim that's love too? Some say you can't change your sexual orientation, so does that mean if old men want to abuse young girls it should be ok, because that is his natural "orientation"?

Mathew 12: 30-32 <sup>30</sup> "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>31</sup> And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

We need to take a stand against actions that pull us and others away from God's word and God's will. Because if we don't speak out against same sex marriage and any marriage not defined by God in His word then others will assume we are for any union what-so-ever. We can make a change, but our voices need to be as loud as those who are in favor of same sex marriage, multiple couple marriage and any other un-God-like unions.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 <sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor homosexuals<sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And that is what some of you were.

But there is proof also in today's world society. We live in a country where some forms of evil are encouraged and legalized. Babies are being murdered in the womb. Men and women are living together without the benefit of marriage or any type of commitment at all. There is a push to legalize marijuana. Is it any wonder that our society is now embracing the legalization of same-sex unions? Those who have forsaken the law of God encourage others to do the same. They praise the wicked. They encourage all kinds of rebellion against God. Why? There may be many reasons, but I will only put forth one.

Misery loves company. Deep down somewhere in their hearts, they know the truth. Don't believe it? John 16:8 "When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Me".

The truth has been suppressed, maybe to the point that they don't know it's still there. But it's there. The drug user knows that what he is doing will harm him and harm all those around him. The alcoholic knows the same. The latter part of that verse applies to us. We are in a battle against same-sex unions, not because we hate anyone, but instead, because we wish to follow God's instructions to us from His holy word. We are resisting the wicked. Do we hate the sinner? Absolutely not, after all, we are all sinners. But we must keep battling anyone and everything that would wish to defeat us, in God's name, in our quest for purity. I talked to Dave Obey once and I asked "how in the world did it become legal to kill unborn babies"? His reply: "because the ones who wanted abortion legal made more noise than those opposed". Really? That's all it took? Now we have a very, very small minority of transgender people wanting to use whichever bathroom they identify with!!! They say, "Well, God doesn't always get things right the first time". Whoa, back that truck up, so now they want us to believe that God makes mistakes and that He is NOT perfect!! What a crock!!

God's question might be: "when are you going to stand up, make some noise, and defend my holy word?" He is calling out to us. Are you listening? It's easy to find out who your representatives are, write a letter, or call and let them know we don't want men in our little girl's bathroom because those men believe God make a mistake by making them "male" instead of "female". And guess what? Some people actually get an award for bravery because they made their transgender operation public, is that totally goofy or what?

But we must also resist on a much bigger front. Today's world continues to call that which is wicked, good, in order to justify their sinful lifestyle. On every front we are bombarded with worldly values; values which are contrary to God's word. We don't just have a battle against our personal sins and desires; we are in a war against unbridled gayness. Our battle is also against abortion, drugs which cause harm both to the user and innocent bystanders, the dismissal of God from our society and government, and a host of other issues. The spiritual battle rages ever more evidently as time passes. It won't end until our Lord returns. Meanwhile, we fight. Remember, in the end, we win, or to be more precise, God wins!

*Ezekiel 12:1 The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people."*

None of us deserve salvation, but God offers it to all of us. No matter where we are in our faith walk. Whether we are a little lost or way off the beaten path. Are those living in a sinful rebellion against God's word to be shunned and hated? Not at all, all sin is forgiven if we ask the Lord for salvation and repent. In spite of all of this God simply wants to remind us that joy is a result of God's gift of salvation. And all of us who are saved should experience that joy.

That's why Paul exhorted the Christians in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 with these familiar words, "Rejoice always." To the Philippians he said, "Rejoice always and again I say rejoice." Why? Because joy and rejoicing is an element within the saving work of God. And when, however, sin comes into a believer's life, joy will depart. And David expressed that, didn't he, in Psalms 51:12 when coming out of the terrible sin of adultery and murder, he cried out to God and said, "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation." Joy is an element of salvation. It can be forfeited by sin at which point we are to be exhorted to experience again the joy that God has provided for us. Salvation then has built-in joy that every believer should experience constantly.

Ephesians 2:8 *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.*

Prayer: Father, at times we can be overwhelmed with what we see in our world. God have mercy on our country and society in general. Give us the strength we need to rise above all those people and things which would love to take us down to the pits of hell with them. Forgive our sins as we forgive others and help us to remember the joy of your salvation and share it with others. Help us, Lord.

To God be all the glory,  
Rosie Schilling



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Please remember the following people in your prayers

- Jerry Harmon—aneurysm in stomach that burst—brother-in-law of Rose Schilling
- Kim Heller—breast cancer—cousin of Jodi Krause
- Gloria Everhard—breast cancer (sister to Kim Heller) - cousin of Jodi Krause
- Don Hansen—Bladder cancer—undergoing chemo treatments in Florida
- Paulette Kroll—Myleloid Leukemia—receiving chemo treatments in Milwaukee
- Bill Brayton—DeEtta's brother
- Jim Decker—chemo for lymphoma—friend of the Streckert's
- Alice Weiler—cancer treatments—Debbie Tabbert's grandmother
- Amy—cancer—friend of Barb Mohr-Borchardt
- Dylan, Logan Weichert—sons of Bryan & Stacey
- Sawyer Mueller—microcephaly—Daryl & Beth's son
- Annette Schultz—breast cancer—Tom Kirsch's sister
- Jennifer Bohman—prayers of healing
- Pete Cornaggia—cancer and treatment—friend of the Streckert's
- Dennis Bohman—Colby Nursing Home

## Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	June 26	Attendance 86
Offering:	Regular	\$1450.00
	Building	\$340.00
	Loose	\$4.00
	Sunday School	\$1.00
	Other	\$50.00
	Total	



- Thank you to Gary Scheffler for the table in the Narthex.
- Debbie & Dave Bauman have been given the job of planting grass to complete the driveway project.



Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 25-29 from 5:30-8:00 pm. There will be a light supper served from 5:00-5:30 pm. All children 3 years old through 5th grade are welcome. Your child will have fun hearing Bible stories, singing upbeat songs, making crafts, while getting to know Jesus Christ. Any questions, please see Jen or Michelle.

Please also watch for a sign-up for volunteers in the upcoming weeks.



During the months of July and August, we will be collecting school supplies, and backpacks to be given to our Local school children. Also, we will be collecting school supplies to fill kits sent to needy children through Lutheran World Relief. The list includes both projects: Please put supplies in container next to coffee counter. Any questions contact: Audrey Kamenick (715-352-2714) or Gayle Werner ((715-352-2971)

#2 pencils, pens (blue and black), notebooks (wide or college) large erasers, folders, baby wipes, kleenex, theme paper (college and wide), book covers (medium and large), sharpie, blunt scissors, crayons (16 or 24), paper plates, sandwich bags (Quart and Gallon) ,rulers with centimeter and inches), post notes, colored pencils, washable markers, 8oz.white glue, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, highlighters, pencil case or pencil box, dry erase markers, erase boards, hand sanitizers, and backpacks.\* ALL ITEMS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 21. Thank you. "An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge" Proverbs 18:15

**Thank You!**

....so much for the nice bag and blanket and thoughts and prayers you gave to me during my cancer treatment. It is a scary time to get that diagnosis and so helpful to learn of the care and prayers of people like you. God has been gracious in giving me peace and assurance and walking with me through this with people like you.. Thank you for caring.  
*Gloria Everhard*

....for your support of the Ronald McDonald House with your gift of money. Your generosity makes it possible for us to keep families together when they need each other most.  
*Cindy, Evening Manager*